

Benjamin Franklin “The First American” An Astounding Freemason

Our distinguished Brother, Benjamin Franklin, is historically considered “The First American” for his early and indefatigable campaigning for colonial unity. However, this is just one of the numerous attributes to this amazing man—they are so numerous and well-known, there is no need to list them.

Generally speaking, most school children are well aware of Franklin and his astounding life by about age 10 (Grade 5), and remarkable that was the extent of Franklin’s formal education; from then on he did everything himself.

Franklin’s fields of endeavor were so extensive that we have difficulty coming up with a word for him. He was one of the most intelligent men to grace our planet. I suppose the word “genius” is fitting, but this is generally applied to only one field of specialty. The only word we have for Brother Franklin is “polymath”—a person of encyclopedic learning. The word “learning,” of course brings to mind documented knowledge (books), but during Franklin’s time (1706–1790) books for higher learning were scarce. We can only conclude that he simply had the ability to conceptualize and apply reasoning and logic far beyond that of ordinary people.

The most notable polymaths in history are; Plato, Aristotle, Benjamin Franklin, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Alexander von Humboldt, Gottfried Leibniz and Leonardo da Vinci. It might be noted that von Goethe was also a Freemason.

Originally, Franklin was skeptical of Freemasonry, and even published articles pretending to reveal Masonic “mysteries.” However, for reasons not known, he applied for membership and once a member did more for Freemasonry than any man in history.

What we can gather from this is that Freemasonry taught him something he did not know, despite his astounding knowledge, and once he “saw the light,” dedicated a significant part of his life to the Craft.

Like George Washington, Benjamin Franklin is an exemplary tribute to the integrity of the Masonic Order. Keeping this in mind is important when we are asked about Freemasonry.

